

Message Text

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12

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DLOS-07 COA-02 INT-08 L-03 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SCI-06 EPA-04 CEQ-02 AID-20

EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 DRC-01 /156 W

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R 032128Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2562

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR, MX

SUBJECT: FURTHER REACTION TO SALINITY LEGISLATION

REF: MEXICO 5581

1. RADICAL-INDEPENDENT EXCELSIOR ON JULY 3 RAISED QUESTION OF INDEMNIFICATION FOR DAMAGES DONE TO MEXICALI VALLEY BY SALINITY IN COLORADO RIVER IN PAST YEARS. A COLUMN BY PEDRO OCAMPO RAMIREZ CRITICIZES FONSEC RABASA FOR HAVING ACCEPTED A SETTLEMENT WITHOUT INDEMNIFICATION BECAUSE OF THE FONSEC'S ALLEGED VIEW THAT THE US CONGRESS WOULD NOT APPROVE. AN EXCELSIOR ARTICLE IS ALSO CRITICAL AND ARGUES THAT "INDEPENDENT OF THE PRACTICAL DIFFICULTIES WHICH MAY ARISE, IT WILL BE NECESSARY IN THE FUTURE TO RAISE AGAIN THE ISSUE OF COMPENSATION."

2. COMMENT: IT IS EVIDENT FROM QUOTED STATEMENTS BY RABASA ON THE SALINITY STATEMENT THAT HE IS MAINTAINING THE GOM POSITION ESTABLISHED DURING NEGOTIATIONS ON THE QUESTION OF DAMAGES, I.E. THAT THE PROVISIONS OF MINUTE 242 RELATING TO REHABILITATION MIGHT BE PRESENTED AS "IN LIEU OF INDEMNIFICATION." HE HAS NOT, TO OUR KNOWLEDGE AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BELIEF, DEPARTED FROM THIS POSITION. RABASA IS, HOWEVER,

EXTREMELY SENSITIVE TO CRITICISM, PARTICULARLY FROM THE
LEFT, BUT HIS COMMITMENT TO THE "PERMANENT AND DEFINITIVE"
SETTLEMENT OF THE SALINITY PROBLEM IS WELL-DOCUMENTED (SEE
MEXICO A-509 OF OCTOBER 5, 1973) AND, ON THIS ISSUE, HE HAS
NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO STAND UP TO THE CRITICISM.
JOVA

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGREEMENTS, LAW, POLICIES, SALINITY
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 JUL 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: shawdg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974MEXICO05615
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740177-0997
From: MEXICO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740777/aaaacofg.tel
Line Count: 67
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: MEXICO 5581
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 SEP 2002 by rowelle0>; APPROVED <14 FEB 2003 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FURTHER REACTION TO SALINITY LEGISLATION
TAGS: PBOR, MX, (RABASA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005